

Testimony for Human Services Committee

Barbara Albert

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Good morning/afternoon members of the Human Services Committee, also to everyone else.

My name is Barbara Albert, renter in Hartford, registered voter, advocate for Human Rights, and multiply medically challenged Human Being. I'm disabled, some visible, most not. I'm on Medicare and Medicaid. I do volunteer work when able.

This is my testimony concerning Proposed Bill S.B. No. 9, An Act Concerning Medicaid Eligibility.

According to the 2010 Census, Hartford is still the poorest city in the Nation. As one of its more than 30% of residents living under the Federal Poverty Level, the chronic stress effects of barely making it, or just surviving, is having more and more negative effects on my already deteriorating health. My choices are very limited by this, also due to social injustice and economic inequality.

Illness(es), do not discriminate. Being disabled by several illnesses, I feel I'm left out and/or ignored. Even by agencies that are here to "help". If I was not receiving, at least some by Medicaid, there would be no roof over my head, no address, no benefits, no benefits, no access to other than mental health providers - or them either. I'd be panic stricken, shriveling up in a hole or cave somewhere.

However, people like me, are not "non-essentials". We do NOT deserve to be forgotten. I believe there is no justification for making access to basic human needs, any more challenging than it already is, particularly to those who need help most.

In closing I'd like to quote Mahatma Gandhi, "The human voice can never reach the distance that is covered by the still, small voice that is conscience." Thank you for listening.